



Italian Paratroopers earn badge along with Sky Soldiers

Story and photos

By Sgt. Brandon Aird

173d ABCT Public Affairs

The weather turned its back on paratroopers Dec. 7 on Caserma Ederle. A slow, but steady drizzle softened the ground on the North 40 as hundreds of American and Italian paratroopers turned the grassy area into a muddy playground.

Blank gun fire was sporadic, but consistent, and by the end of the day, numerous Soldiers were covered head to toe in mud.

The Soldiers were being trained on infantry tactics and tasks. Stations were set up for each testing on each task. Teams went round-robin to each station and learned the correct standard for each task.

A handful of paratroopers from Italy's Folgore Brigade were training with the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team and trying to earn the U.S. Army's Expert Infantry Badge.

"It's a very good opportunity for us," said Sgt. Mario Angheladdu, a Soldier in Folgore Brigade, who was practicing at the First Aid station.

Italian Soldiers are at a disadvantage when it comes to earning the EIB compared to their American counterparts. The Americans are using their own equipment and are being tested on their own standards. Italian Soldiers might have the same equipment, but have

completely different procedures on how to operate that equipment or they might not even have that equipment at all.

"Some of us have never even seen a Mark-19 Grenade Launcher," explained Angheladdu. "We don't have it in the Italian Army. There are some things similar to ours—your 249 (machine gun) is like our Minimi."

This kind of training is very important to the Italian Soldiers.

"We're building a partnership with the American Soldiers," explained Sgt. Maj. Genrraro Noviello, nick named the "Hyena". "We have worked together down range in Afghanistan and Iraq. This kind of training only strengthens the bonds between us."

The Italian Army doesn't have an EIB, but that is going to change if Noviello has his way.

"I want to have this kind of testing for the Italian Army," Noviello explained. "It would be a test of special tasks just like here, but it would be held in Rome and on Italian Army standards." Noviello explained it would be held near the officer and noncommissioned officer school in Rome.

"If I can get my idea going I want to invite the Americans to come down and try our course just like we are doing here," Noviello explained.

After two weeks of training the Soldiers were tested on the following tasks: 12-mile road march in three hours, first aid, move under direct fire,



Italian Spc. Andrea Stabile, Folgore Brigade, checks for breathing on a simulated casualty on Caserma Ederle's North 40 Dec. 7, while training for the Expert Infantry Badge testing.



Sgt. Mario Angheladdu, a Soldier in Italian Folgore Brigade, sends a 9-line MEDEVAC request on the North 40 while training with the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team for the Expert Infantry Badge. "This training is an excellent opportunity for us," said Angheladdu.

dismounted navigation (day and night), Army physical fitness test, individual camouflage, shift fire from a known point, administer nerve-agent antidote to self, visual signaling techniques, estimate range, operate SINCGAR Radio single channel, identify terrain features on a map, determine target

using grid coordinates, perform a functions check on a M-16 or M-4 carbine series rifle, identify and employ hand grenades, employ a M18A1 Claymore mine, install and remove a M21 anti-tank mine, SALUTE report, prepare a AT4 for fire, maintain a .50-caliber machine gun, prepare a range card, maintain and load a M240B machine gun, prepare and operate a M249 machine gun, load a Mark 19 grenade launcher, operate night vision goggles, and prepare Javelin for firing.

Safeguard against home, vehicle break-ins

Office of the Provost Marshal

Community Information

At this time of the year, Military Police historically receive an increase of reports about vehicle and house break-ins.

There is no single reason for the increase, but one identifiable reason is that bad guys are out and about more, just as Americans are out and about shopping for the holidays.

Unfortunately, many vehicles sit unattended with purchases visible, making them targets for vandals and thieves. Remember to safeguard your packages in the trunk, not in plain sight inside the vehicle.

Petty thieves do not want to have a confrontation with anyone, but will gladly and easily break into a vehicle and take what is available.

These same thieves won't hesitate to break in a set of quarters that has been identified as an easy target or is noticeably unattended for a long period with no activity. When not at home, or when going on leave, close and lock shutters and doors, place lights on a timer and have a friend or neighbor periodically check the premises.

Homes that have been identified as targets, are ones easy to gain access through a window or door, or if there is reason to believe there are valuables inside.

Often these homes have been marked outside on a sidewalk or fence with drawings or stick figures that are meaningless to the average person, but give a thief information about the quarters and occupants.

	Empty House		Lonely woman
	Good objective		Women willing to give money
	Very good house to steal from		House has already been broken into
	Don't touch, friendly home		Do not insist
	Dog inside house		Nothing interesting
	Dog		Public Official
	Carabinieri or police around		Avoid this neighborhood
	Danger, always occupied		Do not break into this office or house
	Good time to break into		Sunday is a good day to break into this house
	Good to break into in the afternoon		Good to break into in the morning
	Rich house		House has alarm
	Nothing interesting		

The chart above depicts possible markings used to identify quarters for possible theft. The Provost Marshal Office encourages people who live in private rentals

or government leased homes to look for these markings and call the MP Desk at 634-7233/7626, or 0444-71-7233/7626 if something noticeably out of the ordinary is found.

Lost or Stolen ID Card Security and Awareness Seminar

USAG Vicenza

Command Information

Effective Jan. 2, all members of the Vicenza military community who lose or have their military identification card stolen will be required to attend a seminar.

The purpose of the seminar is to reinforce security awareness as it applies to accountability of your issued military identification card.

The training will be conducted on Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the Central Processing Facility (Bldg 311) classroom.

The first class will be held Jan. 4. The intent of the seminar is to make victims sensitive to security awareness and recommend avoidance techniques to eliminate future occurrences.

Failure to adhere to this requirement could impact your community privileges. A SETAF Memorandum is forthcoming and will be made available to the community shortly.

Tighten up post

Command Sgt. Maj. Keith Filipp
USAG Vicenza Command Sergeant Major
Special to the Outlook

The intent of this column is to request help from the community to make our post the absolute best it can be. What we look like, is who we are in the eyes of our visitors and Italian hosts.

We are guests on Italian soil, and as guests, we should be mindful of how we treat our surroundings. Working together we can make a difference and help solve some of the challenges facing our community by simply sharing our knowledge and helping others to do the right thing.

Below is the third in a series of topics where we can make a difference on this post.

Clean up details

Each building is responsible for ensuring that the 50-foot radius around your building is policed daily. Let's do our part and let the cleaning detail concentrate on other areas to keep our post looking attractive.

Illegal dumping

Recycling is the law. If you bring your trash on post and do not use either ECO Center or other recycling bins – You're Wrong. The trash dumpsters on the installation are for the building and support establishments in the vicinity – not for you to dump your household garbage.



Community members caught violating any of the above-mentioned issues could find their post privileges in jeopardy.

Bicycle racks to move

I plan to move two bike racks on post. The first bicycle rack is located at Gate 2, the Post Chapel Gate. The bicycles are parked next to the exit gate. This is a potential hazard in the event that we need to evacuate the area. The bicycles and racks will be moved to the opposite side of Bldg 3.

The other bicycle rack to be moved is located at the Ederle Inn. A new spot for this rack has not been determined yet.

Garrison workers honored at quarterly awards ceremony

By Diana Bahr
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

USAG Vicenza held their quarterly awards ceremony Dec. 12 in the Ederle Theater and open with remarks by Col. Virgil S.L. Williams.

"We're here to recognize all those individuals who have provided outstanding support for many specific events that have happened on post over the past several months," he said. "These events include Lion Shake, a visit from the Secretary of the Army, members of congress and more."

One of the group awards went to members of the Installation Material Maintenance Agency for their work maintaining the post equipment.

"When General Griffin [U.S. Army Materiel Command commander] visited Caserma Ederle, he told me he was extremely impressed by our shop here, and said that these folks are doing a terrific job in the maintenance arena."

Other honorees included Livia

Cappellaro, who has worked for the post library for 50 years, and Piermario Schizzerotto, who is retiring from the Directorate of Public Works after 34 years of service.

After the awards portion of the ceremony was completed, Williams took a few moments to talk about upcoming events on post.

"We just finished our reintegration portion of the deployment cycle," he said, "and now we need to gear up for the deployment of the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team back to Iraq. We will need to work together as a team to help support the families of our deployed Soldiers; to enhance our programs and quality of life for all of us."

Williams finished by reminding everyone that he wants us to take advantage of the down time we have over the holidays.

"Take the opportunity to take time off, spend time with family and friends, be safe and have a happy holiday season," he said.

Make appointments for Sick Call

U.S. Army Health Clinic Vicenza
Press Release

Beginning Jan. 3, the U.S. Army Health Clinic Vicenza will implement Active Duty sick call by appointment.

The appointment line will open up at 7:30 a.m. for same-day appointments that will start as early as 8 a.m. and run throughout the day.

This system has replaced the traditional walk-in sick call system at many installations

with great success and high patient satisfaction as well as command satisfaction. While waiting for their appointment, the Soldier may stay on duty, do PT or go home and shower.

This system increases patient satisfaction by decreasing the wait time for the medical provider and it improves the continuity of care by booking directly with the Soldier's primary care manager.

The appointment line is 634-7484 or, from off post, 0444-71-7484.



The bicycles and racks shown above are currently parked next to Bldg 3 by the Gate 2 walk-through exit. They will be moved to the opposite side of Bldg 3 soon. If you have a bicycle here, please move it. (Photo by Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)

New Community Action Council format strives to share key information with community

USAG Vicenza Public Affairs Office
Press Release

The Community Action Council has changed venues and changed its focus.

"We want to take the opportunity to get more pertinent information out to the community," said Renee Citron, deputy to the Garrison Commander, USAG Vicenza. "This is a great forum for us to share important information and highlight community events. We want to encourage as many people as possible to attend."

The new format includes time for each directorate and key agency chiefs to highlight important information such as events, changes in hours of operations for facilities, changes in policy and more.

"We want to make this a one-stop-shop for key information the community needs to know," said Citron.

Even though the format has changed, key parts of the CAC will still take place,

such as recognizing volunteers, addressing specific CAC issues and the open forum.

Not all CAC issues submitted will be addressed in the new CAC forum, but those submitting issues will receive personal responses from the agency directly.

Because of this new format, anonymous issues are longer accepted. Those submitting issues will need to supply contact information, such as a valid phone number and e-mail address.

If your issue is not addressed during the new CAC forum, you can find responses posted to the USAG Vicenza Web site at www.usag.vicenza.army.mil, where you can also submit an issue or search through past issues.

For questions concerning the CAC, contact the USAG Vicenza Public Affairs Office at 634-6363.

There is no CAC during the month of December. The next CAC will be held Jan. 24 at 10 a.m. in Club Veneto.

HOLIDAY SAFETY

Have a safe, enjoyable holiday

Command Safety Office
Press Release

Many of us are finishing up the final touches to our shopping lists and holiday decorating, all in preparation for the upcoming week's events.

Below are some tips to help keep you, your family and your home safe before, during and after holiday festivities:

Toy Safety

Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards for younger children.

◆ Before buying a toy or allowing your child to play with a toy that he has received as a gift, read the instructions carefully.

◆ To prevent both burns and electrical shocks, don't give young children (under age ten) a toy that must be plugged into an electrical outlet. Instead, buy toys that are battery-operated.

◆ Children under age three can choke on small parts contained in toys or games. Government regulations specify that toys for children under age three cannot have parts less than 1 1/4 inches in diameter and 2 1/4 inches long.

◆ Children under age 8 can choke or suffocate on un-inflated or broken balloons. Remove strings and ribbons from toys before giving them to young children.

◆ Watch for pull toys with strings that are more than 12 inches in length. They could be a strangulation hazard for babies.

Food Safety

◆ Bacteria are often present in raw

foods. Fully cook meats and poultry, and thoroughly wash raw vegetables and fruits.

◆ Be sure to keep hot liquids and foods away from the edges of counters and tables, where they can be easily knocked over by a young child's exploring hands.

◆ Never put a spoon used to taste food back into the food without washing it first.

◆ Always keep raw foods and cooked foods separate, and use separate utensils when preparing them.

◆ Always thaw meat in the refrigerator, never on the countertop.

◆ Foods that require refrigeration should never be left at room temperature for more than two hours.

Fireplaces

◆ Before lighting any fire, remove all greens, boughs, papers, and other decorations from fireplace area. Check to see that the flue is open.

◆ Use care with "fire salts," which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires.

They contain heavy metals that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting if eaten. Keep them away from children.

◆ Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

Should an emergency arise, contact the Caserma Ederle Fire Department at 634-8911 or 117 from on post, or 0444-71-8911 from off post.

The Military Police Desk Sergeant may be reached at 634-7233/7626, or 0444-71-7233/7626 from off post.

Organizations donate food baskets, help others have a happy holiday



Left to right: Sgt. 1st Class Tim Pearson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAG Vicenza, Robert Young, Troop Issue Sustenance Activity manager, and Lydia Glass Overseas Services Corporation manager, add items donated by Glass's company to items previously donated by EBREX, another TISA vendor, for holiday gift packages for selected Soldiers. Soldiers were selected based on rank and financial circumstances for the packages. Among the items donated were frozen meats, cereal, vegetables, candy, fruit juices and more. "This is an opportunity for some of our vendors to help spread a bit of holiday cheer to some folks who may otherwise have a difficult time over the holidays," said Young. (Photo by Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)

Spread the cheer, save a life

By Christine Weld
Outlook Volunteer

Merriment is what we most often associate with the holiday season. Gift-giving, spending time with loved ones, caroling and making happy memories are what the holidays bring to mind.

However, the holidays can sometimes be a time of sadness rather than joy. In our community, these feelings might be especially pronounced as many are far away from their families. For some, it might be the first holiday spent on their own.

Chaplain (Maj) Eugene Schneider, Caserma Ederle Family Life chaplain, recommends a proactive approach.

"I encourage people to look beyond their immediate circumstances," he said, suggesting that those people who are feeling a little down do something productive. He recommends taking a trip with Outdoor Recreation or Information, Trips and Registration, do volunteer work or think about what you can do for others. Helping others can help brighten up a negative mood.

Watching out for battle buddies is also important. Chaplain Schneider advises, "Don't assume people have plans."

Another venue on post is BOSS – Better

Opportunities for Single Soldiers. This organization has trips and events specifically geared toward single Soldiers, according to Sgt. Dan Bregaglio, BOSS president.

"We have ski and snowboarding trips, visit the Ferrari museum and other places of interest to the young Soldiers on post," he said.

Contact BOSS at 634-8294 for a list of upcoming events.

It is especially important during the holidays to check in with friends and coworkers and see how they are doing. Inviting people to dinner, making plans with friends and talking to people about how they are doing are all good ways to help combat the holiday blues in others.

Sometimes the problem is more serious than just 'the blues.' Occasionally, a person might be suffering from serious depression. In those cases, it is imperative to seek professional help. On post, chaplains and counselors are available to help those with serious emotional issues.

For help dealing with the holiday blues or a more serious case of depression, contact the post chaplains at 634-7519, 0444-71-7519 from off post, or the U.S. Army Health Clinic's Behavioral Health service at 634-7604 or 634-7403, 0444-71-7604, or 7403 from off post.

Vicenza Health Clinic MEDEVAC system changes

U.S. Army Health Clinic Vicenza
Press Release

Effective Jan. 2, the MEDEVAC bus to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center will depart and return in front of the commissary.

Long-term parking for those utilizing the government bus transportation will be permitted at the commissary, but ONLY through personal request from the patient movement coordinator, at 634-7777, or 0444-71-7777 from off post.

A special parking pass has been created for MEDEVAC patients only.

The bus schedule remains the same: Depart Vicenza on Mondays and Thursdays at 7:15 a.m., return to Vicenza on Tuesdays

and Fridays at approximately 9 p.m.

The MEDEVAC office now offers updated information packets to help during your stay in Germany.

The packet includes base maps and information on billeting facilities, dining, taxi services, and more.

For details, please contact Dakasha Leonard at 634-7777, or 0444-71-7777 from off post. The MEDEVAC office hours are 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Fridays, from 1-4:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

The patient movement coordinator is available however, for emergencies and by appointment outside of the regularly scheduled hours. These hours are subject to change without advanced notification.

Laundry price adjustments whiz by



Donatella Cozzouno, USAG Livorno Quartermaster laundry, greets Camp Darby customers with a smile due to an adjustment in prices at the Quartermaster Laundry facility. At both Camp Darby and Caserma Ederle, key items, like BDU's, dropped 50 cents per piece and dry cleaning a dress now cost \$1.80 less. Duffel bags which used to cost \$2.35 are now only 50 cents. Price adjustments were made using an Activity Based Costing model and will be reevaluated and revised every six months in accordance with AR 210-130. A complete list of cost changes can be found on the Web site: www.livorno.army.mil under the Directorate of Logistics section. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello, USAG Livorno Public Affairs Office)

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Vicenza student selected to perform in New Year's Day parade

Story and photo by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

What is a better way to start off the New Year than being in one of the world's great cities? It's being in a parade in that city!

This will actually happen for a Vicenza High School senior cheerleader who was one of 1,500 All Stars selected by Universal Cheerleaders Association summer camps in the states, and will be participating in the renowned London New Year's Day Parade.

"I started cheerleading when I moved here," said Kati Hunnewell, daughter of Vicenza Commissary manager, Royden and Kathi Hunnewell. "I wanted to try something new and I had a lot of fun cheerleading with the team last year."

After competing with the VHS team in Germany in February, she decided to attend a four-day cheerleading camp at the University of Mississippi over the summer, which helped to improve her cheer skills.

"While I was at the competition up in Germany, I received an All Tournament award,

and that was a pretty awesome achievement, because it was my first year cheerleading," said Hunnewell. This new experience was just the beginning of an exciting project, which led to the upcoming New Year's Day parade.

"At the camp, the team was very good and inspired me to be better. They made me work harder and try my best to look uniform with them."

"You go to camp and you learn a dance and a cheer. But throughout the camp you also learn teambuilding, crowd pleasing, or you learn stunts, and all kinds of cool stuff, and at the end of camp, the second to last day, you try out. You perform the cheer and the chant, and that's how they decide," she continued.

At the end of camp they announced the All Star winners, who received medals.

"I went for the closing ceremony at the camp and each of the teams that were there performed," said Kathi Hunnewell. "Then they announced the boys and girls who were selected for All Stars, and also that the group would be marching in the London 2007

Parade."

"At the parade, it will be girls and boys from all of the United States, not just the ones who went to the camp with her in Mississippi," said Hunnewell. "About 1,500 girls and boys will be participating in this annual event."

If Kati is still nervous and excited at the same time for this unique experience, especially while living in Europe, her parents are also proud of this accomplishment.

"I am just proud of the fact that she was able to make this big of an achievement in such a short period of time," said her father.

"This is the first year she joined any organized cheerleading events. So, for her to do all this within one year, just shows that she is a talented young woman. I think that this opportunity built her confidence; she knows that she can exceed at things as long as she tries," he continued.

"I think that the summer camp experience

also made a big difference in her attitude toward the school, her grades and the future," said Kati's mother. "That's when she realized she really wants to go to college and do this kind of thing and try to be a part of it."

Kati will arrive in London Dec. 27 and after an orientation meeting, may have time for sightseeing.

"I believe we only have one practice before the day of the parade," Kati said. In the meantime, she practices her routine that she will be performing that day.

Kati began dancing when she was little and this helps her learn different routines quickly. "There are two groups marching in the parade. I am learning *'You are the one I want'* from the musical, *Grease*, and then two different dances. As you march in the parade, there will be times when you stop and you perform. I have marched in parades before but not this one; I did it for my old high school," she said.

Vicenza Schools share holiday spirit

Community offers up sweet treats for Soldiers during holiday season



Above: About 20 children from School Age Services decorated cookies prepared by ACS staff to donate to the single Soldiers for the Holidays. This annual event, coordinated by Army Community Service, took place at the Davis Family Readiness Center Dec. 12.

At right: The annual Cookie Exchange was held Wednesday at Davis Family Readiness Center, and about 20 baskets were filled and wrapped with the cookies decorated by children the day before, along with ones prepared by community members, who brought dozens of cookies and shared their recipes. At right, ACS staff members wrap one of the baskets with the cookies that are donated to the single Soldiers. (Photos by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)



Children attending the Vicenza Elementary School Italian Immersion class perform the legend of "Old Befana" during the holiday program held Thursday in the VHS gym. As legend has it the three Wise Men were in search of the Christ child when they stopped at a house to ask for directions. An old woman holding a broom opened the door to see who was there. The old woman was unaware of who these three men were looking for and could not point them in the right direction. The three men asked the old woman to join them on their journey, but she declined because she had much housework to do. After they left, she thought she had made a mistake and decided to go and catch up with the kind men. After many hours of searching she could not find them. Thinking of the opportunity she had missed, the old woman stopped every child to give them a small treat in hopes that one of them was the Christ child. Each year on the eve of the Epiphany she sets out looking for the baby Jesus and she stops at each child's house to leave those who were good treats in their stockings, and those who were bad, a lump of coal.



VHS Music Director Geri Shimabukuro, left, directs the VHS Beginning Band in "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" by Johnny Marks, arranged by Mike Story at the Winter Concert held Dec. 12 in the school. The Winter Concert featured the beginning band, concert band, string orchestra, string ensemble, the middle and high school chorus. Also participating at the beginning of the event, was the Vicenza Elementary School with 2nd, 3rd, 4th grade partial-immersion classes and Trina Downey's 3rd grade class. (Photos by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)



Pvt. Joseph Frazier, Fusion Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne), Pfc. Jason Exline, 14th Transportation Battalion, and Spc. Bryan K. Clark, 1st Platoon, 111th Postal Company, load some packages onto the mail truck headed to Venice airport while Pfc. Angela Jones, 449th Adjutant General Postal Unit, checks records on the weight sheet.

Story and photos by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

Not only are Santa and his elves busy and surrounded by packages before the holidays; but other people working behind the scenes are active this time of year.

"There's a lot to do in the post office," said Spc. Alan Reed, a Soldier with 1st Platoon, 111th Postal Company, in Vicenza.

"We accept packages from customers; we take care of a lot of operations in the back room, making sure that they [packages] are going to the right place in the right bag, that they get on the truck, and then they get to the airport on time," he continued.

"During the holiday season, we have anywhere from 200 to 300 extra pieces of mail a day," explained Spc. Bryan K. Clark, also with the 1/111th Postal Co.

"Since beginning of December, we have had help from Army reservists from North Carolina, and augmentees from the different units around post. So we are able to better manage the flow of the mail, both outgoing and incoming every day," Clark continued.

The reservists came to help for the first two weeks of December, which is probably the peak time of the year, even though the busy time will slow down only toward the end of January, according to 1/111th Postal Co, Sgt. 1st Class Marty Rivera, Platoon Sergeant, who arrived on post in May.

"If we count each individual package we receive, we are at 1,000 a day. It's doubling to tripling this time of year," she said.

In addition to receiving mail, the employees who work at the Vicenza Post Office – Soldiers and civilians – continue servicing customers when the facility closes at four in the afternoon, the second part of their job starts.

"At four, when we close the doors, we still have customers in the lobby waiting. We try to service them so we can get their mail out that night. Once we close the doors, we

start the second part of our job, which is taking the mail to the airport to make sure it gets sent out," she explained.

After sorting, weighing and labeling according to destination, all the mail is loaded on the mail truck with the proper flight records. Four trucks depart daily for Venice airport, according to Rivera.

After delivering the mail to the airport, the same crew take the mail from the planes, out of the crates, and into the trucks, said Rivera.

"After driving back, the personnel unload the trucks at night," said Rivera. "Right now they've been getting out of here around 11 p.m. and, sometimes, midnight."

What the community may not know is that these same Soldiers have to be back on post the next morning at 5:30 for physical training.

"This is my first postal job," said Rivera. "I really never realized how much these Soldiers actually worked. I'm glad I got to do this job, because it changed my mind when I actually saw what goes on behind the scenes. These Soldiers who work harder than any Soldier I've ever seen in 14 years," she said.

But it's not over yet. Now that the mail is on post and sorted, it gets handed over to the civilians in the Community Mail Room.

"I estimate we're pushing about 1,000 packages a day," said Christopher Hess, CMR manager. "For actual letter mail, it's closer to 7,000 pieces."

Hess was able to be authorized five temporary staff to help with the work load. They began Nov. 6 and will work through Jan. 12 making sure that the Vicenza military community has a happy holiday season.

Helping get Santa's packages to all the good boys and girls through the CMR are: Joshua Benitez, Maria Diaz, Jewell Lankford (who is a new volunteer), Monica Little, Giorgio Lovato, Samantha McClure, Donald McGriff, Madeline Mojica, Calee O'Leary, Steve Roberts and longtime CMR volunteer Jim Miller.



Above: (L to R): Works from the Caserma Ederle Community Mail Room make up notices for packages to put inside the customer's boxes. (Photo by Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)



Above: A Community Mail Room worker delivers letters in the CMR. (Photo by Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)



Vicenza Postal clerks weigh some packages and help customers during lunchtime in the middle of December, one of the busiest times of the year.



Camp Darby Community Mail Room clerks work hard to make sure all the packages and letters go to the right people. The CMR will be open Saturday, 9:30a.m.-2:30p.m. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello, USAG Livorno PAO)

Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Vicenza area events

Find the following markets in downtown Vicenza:
Dec. 22-24: Handicraft market in *Piazza Castello*;
Dec. 22-24: Market in *Piazza dei Signori*;
Thru Dec. 24 find chalets in *Giardini Salvi*;
Dec. 24 find area shopping malls open (Piramidi, Palladio);
Dec. 24: Camisano market open all day;
Jan. 4-6: Epiphany market in the historical center;
Jan. 4-6: Handicraft market in *Piazza Castello*.

UNICEF

The doll Pigotta, hand made by volunteers and sponsored by UNICEF, can be found in Vicenza at the UNICEF office, 10 Via Torretti.
The office is open the mornings of Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and the afternoons of Thursday, Saturday and Sunday until Jan. 6.
Every Pigotta represents a child who is waiting for a vaccination against the six principal infant diseases.

The cost of a doll is a minimum of 20 Euro. Call 0444 -300-484 for details.

Flame of knowledge

As Athens is the home of the Olympic torch, so Torino has been designated the custodian of the *Universiade* torch, or the “Flame of Knowledge.”
The city is preparing to host the Winter Olympic games for the fourth time and the torch, which already departed Torino Dec. 9 will touch several of the main cities in Italy, arriving back in Torino Jan. 17, when the games begin.
For full details of the torch, the games, tickets, and more, visit the Web site: www.ardementetour.it and www.universiadetorino2007.org.

New Year’s Eve Italian style

In Italy at midnight there are substantial public fireworks put on by most communities just like everywhere else in the world.
Plus, most ordinary Italians from the North to the South will be setting off an abundance of sparklers, firecrackers, cherry bombs which are ready available from all stores.

The cities of Rome, Milan, Bologna, Palermo and Naples put on huge outdoor events with pop and rock bands that attract thousands of revelers and are televised on the national channels.
In downtown *Vicenza*, the festivities will be held in the main square, *Piazza dei Signori*, starting at 10:30 p.m.
In the past, fireworks have been set off at the stroke of midnight on Mount Berico.

An old custom that still takes place in the South of Italy, is to throw old things out of the window, plates, glasses, furniture, anything that is of no use anymore.
The significance of this event is the readiness to accept the New Year. So if you are in that part of Italy, watch were you park your car and if you are caught in the streets - run for cover at the stroke of midnight.
Special care should also be given to your pets, make sure they are indoors the evening of Dec. 31.

Medieval event

In the medieval town of *Montagnana*, in the province of Padova, the color to wear while ringing in the New Year is red.
Red was the color worn by horsemen defending the city from Veronese attackers in medieval times.
Visitors to the town on Dec. 31 at 2 p.m. are invited to dress up in medieval costume for the festivities.
The event, will be filled with people imitating medieval life and windows will be dressed up with banners. Streets will be buzzing with squires, who will set up ‘camp’ outside the walls of the old city.
Soldiers will set up old-style battle stations in front of the castle and armed horsemen will ‘patrol’ the streets. There will also be jugglers and musicians entertaining the crowds.
The day’s events will be centered around the re-enactment of the attack and successful defense of the city against the Veronese, followed by a parade from the castle to the Duomo.
Beverages will be handed out to the public and there will also be food tasting available in the Medieval village.
Full information and booking for a New Year’s Eve Gala in an old castle or just to take part in a medieval show of the Red Cape can

be found on the Web site: www.capodannowww.it.

Events in the Veneto region

In *Piazza Bra*, downtown *Verona* at 11:15 p.m. on Dec. 23, the Asac chorus will be singing Christmas songs;
On Jan. 6, the Feast of the Epiphany where in Italy an old ‘good’ witch called the *Befana* visits.
For those who believe, children leave socks out on the eve of that day in anticipation of her goodies, and not only, for several, it is not a surprise to find a lump of coal for those who have been a little naughty.

Also on Jan. 6 in *Venice*, a costumed boat race with more than 50 men dressed as *Befane*, will take place along the Grand Canal, until they reach a giant stocking of the Epiphany hanging under the Rialto Bridge. The race starts from the S. Toma area at approx 10:30-11 a.m.
A dip in the sea on New Year’s Day at *Venice’s* Lido Beach has been classified amongst Venice’s top annual attractions. The event takes place between 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Italian wine labels

The labeling of most Italian wines is regulated by the Italian government and knowing the significance of the terms found on most Italian wine labels can help you make a good choice.
DOC – This specifies that the wine comes from a specific vineyard, locality or region and is produced using traditional methods. These wines are usually of good quality.
DOCG – This label certifies that the wine has been produced under strict government regulations and indicates its area of origin. The extra “G” at the end of this labeling term is intended to signify a wine of guaranteed high quality.
These wines are usually of the very best quality and command premium prices.
Classico – The term Classico, followed by the name of the locality where the wine was produced, specifies that the wine was produced from grapes grown in the oldest vineyard area in that locality.
Riserva – This certifies that the wine has been aged for at least three years before bottling.
Vino da Tavola –Vino da Tavola refers to table wine.

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

Dec. 19	CLOSED	
Dec. 20	Santa Clause 3 (PG13)	7 p.m.
Dec. 21	Everyone’s Hero (G)	4 p.m.
	The Marine (PG13)	7 p.m.
Dec. 22	Flicka (PG)	7 p.m.
	Man of the Year (PG13)	9:45 p.m.
Dec. 23	Deck the Halls (PG)	4 p.m.
	Santa Clause 3 (PG13)	7 p.m.
Dec. 24	Deck the Halls (PG)	Noon
	Flicka (PG)	2 p.m.
Dec. 25	CLOSED	
Dec. 26	CLOSED	
Dec. 27	Departed (R)	7 p.m.
Dec. 28	Man of the Year (PG13)	7 p.m.
Dec. 29	The Grudge 2 (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Turistas (R)	10 p.m.
Dec. 30	The Prestige (PG13)	4 p.m.
	Turistas (R)	7 p.m.
Dec. 31	The Grudge 2 (PG13)	4 p.m.
	Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning (R)	7 p.m.
Jan. 5	FIRST RUN MOVIE!!	
	Night at the Museum (PG)	7 p.m.
	Night at the Museum (PG)	9:45 p.m.

Camp Darby Theater

Dec. 21	Hollywoodland (R)	6 p.m.
Dec. 22	Stranger than Fiction (PG13)	6 p.m.
Dec. 23	The Black Dahlia (R)	6 p.m.
Dec. 24	Happy Feet (PG)	2 p.m.
Dec. 28	School for Scoundrels (PG13)	6 p.m.
Dec. 29	Deck the Halls (PG)	6 p.m.
Dec. 30	Running with Scissors (R)	6 p.m.
Dec. 31	Flushed Away (PG)	2 p.m.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2.
The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time.

Last issue of The Outlook

For 2006, that is!! But now that we have your attention, the ‘staff’ of *The Outlook* (all two of us) thank the community for its support over the year and wish everyone a very happy holiday season.
The Outlook will resume publication Jan. 9 and we look forward to bringing you news you can use and articles of interest.
As a reminder, for those wishing to place an article in *The Outlook*, our deadline is Wednesday at noon,

and we appreciate at least two weeks lead time before the article needs to run.
If you have an event you wish *The Outlook* to cover, please contact us at editor@setaf.army.mil at least three weeks prior to the event. Since there are only two people on staff and we have many events to cover, we cannot make promises. However, we are always looking for volunteers!
Happy Holidays!

Classified Ads

Editor’s Note: Caserma Ederle community members may place free classified ads (**not personal or personal services ads**) on the MWR Web site: www.vicenzamwr.com/marketplace.
Every Tuesday at noon, *The Outlook* editor goes to the MWR Web site and copies the ads, which appear in *The Outlook* one week later. *The Outlook* and Directorate of MWR are not responsible for any errors in the advertisement.
Photos accompanying the advertisement will not appear in *The Outlook*.
Because *The Outlook* has limited amount of space available, editing of the classified ad may take place.
The Outlook does not take

classifieds; sellers must place ads on www.vicenzamwr.com.
For more information or contact information on an item you see listed here, visit the MWR Web site: www.vicenzamwr.com/marketplace.
Exercise Bike: Proform 920 S EKG \$100,OBO.
2000 Suzuki GSX-R 600: \$3,000, OBO.
Volvo 850 station wagon: Loaded, perfect condition. \$2,300.
Southwest Watercolor print: By Carol Grigg. Framed. \$50.
Microwave: \$40.
Kitten wanted: Looking for a kitten or cat no older than 1 year.
Wanted: Records33 LP’s & 45’s 50’s and 60’s music on vinyl jazz,

soul, funky, rock. No CD, tapes.
1984 VW Golf: Euro specs. \$650.
New Combat boots: Size 7.5W - \$80.
UMUC textbook: Philosophy 140, current edition. \$30.
Transformer: 2000w, \$80.
Transformer: 1600w, \$60.
Baby changing table: Includes accessories. \$25
Toyota Tercel: 1992, US Specs, Runs great. \$1,000, OBO.
JVC home theater system: \$300.
Humidifer: Bionaire, 220V. Warm mist, \$10.
1998 Infiniti I30: Loaded. \$9,000, OBO.
Free dog to good home: Two-year old female, all shots and microchipped.



Story and photos by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

Left: View of Verona's renowned *Stella cometa*, comet, which is 70-meters-tall, 84-meters-long and weighs 78 tons. It shoots from the Arena into Piazza Bra. The sculpture became the Christmas symbol of Verona and signals the return of the "Rassegna Internazionale del Presepio", or International display of Nativity Scenes. This year is the 23rd edition and some 400 nativity scenes from around the world are on view inside the Arena. Between 150,000 and 200,000 people visit the exhibit every year. Below: One of the pieces on display at the Nativity Scenes show. It comes from France and it is created inside a gourd.

Right: On display is a statue of the Christ Child, created in Southern Italy in the 18th century. The hands, head and feet are made of papier-mâché, the eyes are made of glass, and the dress is made of silk. Below: A Nativity scene that comes from Peru. Other countries on display include Italy, France, Spain, Slovenia, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Mexico, Indonesia, Congo, Madagascar and Japan.



Right: Detail of a *Sicilian Presepe* reconstructed inside a glass demijohn. It took months to complete it because each piece had to be positioned through the narrow neck. The piece is also a base of a lampshade.

According to records, the first *Presepe*, Nativity Scene, was created on Christmas Eve in 1223 at Greccio a town south of Assisi, where St. Francesco lived. It is said that the saint arranged a stable with real people and animals to represent the birth of Jesus to recreate the mystical atmosphere of Bethlehem.

Since then, many cities in Italy and all over the world, have recreated the Nativity Scenes, and some dedicate the period that goes from the Advent (time before Christmas) to Epiphany to hold displays that, throughout the years, have become very popular.

One of these displays takes place in Verona and is called, "Rassegna Internazionale del Presepio nell'arte e nella Tradizione", which means International show of Nativity scenes.

This year is its 23rd edition and, as usual, the appearance of the 70-meter-tall, steel comet near the Verona Arena announced the official return of the Christmas season and of the Nativity scenes event.

The show, which opened Dec. 2, is sponsored by UNESCO and features about 400 nativity scenes from around the world. The scenes are set against a backdrop of music and lights inside the Arena. This year's edition brings the total number of Nativity scenes shown at the Arena over the years to more than 6,000. This year the Christ child is the symbol of the display, and there are several statues made of wood, ceramic, wax and papier-mâché dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries on view. Some countries represented include France, Spain, Slovenia, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Peru, Mexico, Indonesia, Congo, Madagascar and Japan.



All the regions of Italy are featured with some of their unique types of material that are used, shapes and the diversity of the setting.

Some statues have really big dimensions, some resemble miniatures, but all of them are handcrafted pieces that follow local traditions such as the Neapolitan, Sicilian or Venetian.

The display features some special sections – sculptures of the three wise men, the art and tradition of the Nativity scene in Veneto, 60 pieces of the 1930s, 40s and 50s, and the Spanish dioramas from Alicante. The display is open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily until Jan. 21, including holidays. Tickets are available in one of the arches near the entrance. The cost of tickets is 7 euro for adults and 6 euro for children 6-12 years of age and over 60s. For information check the website www.presepiarenaverona.it.

It is recommended to dress warmly. No photography is allowed.



Left: A traditional Nativity scene from the Veneto Region and (above) visitors at the Arena during opening day.



Above: Another *Presepe*, shows a picturesque setting of the town of Milazzo, Sicily, with some of its peculiarities, such as the boats and the swordfish.